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ARMED FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY

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PROGRESS OF LIBRARY BILL

The Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare reported out S. 3430, in amended form, on 29 May 1956 (84th Cong., 2d Session, Senate Report No. 2071). On the same day Representative Priest introduced an identical bill in the House, H.R. 11524, which was referred to the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. The text of the bill is as follows:

A B I L L

To amend title III of the Public Health Service Act, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C., chapter 6A, subchapter II) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new part:

"PART H--NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

"PURPOSE AND ESTABLISHMENT OF LIBRARY

"SEC. 371. In order to assist the advancement of medical and related sciences, and to aid the dissemination and exchange of scientific and other information important to the progress of medicine and to the public health, there is hereby established in the Public Health Service a National Library of Medicine (hereinafter referred to in this part as the 'Library').

"FUNCTIONS OF THE LIBRARY

"SEC. 372. (a) The Surgeon General, through the Library and subject to the provisions of subsection (c), shall---

"(1) acquire and preserve books, periodicals, prints, films, recordings, and other library materials pertinent to medicine;

"(2) organize the materials specified in clause (1) by appropriate cataloging, indexing, and bibliographical listing;

"(3) publish and make available the catalogs, indexes, and bibliographies referred to in clause (2);

"(4) make available, through loans, photographic or other copying procedures or otherwise, such materials in the Library as he deems appropriate;

Printing cost borne by the FRIENDS of the Armed Forces Medical Library.

"(5) provide reference and research assistance; and

"(6) engage in such other activities in furtherance of the purposes of this part as he deems appropriate and the Library's resources permit.

"(b) The Surgeon General may exchange, destroy, or otherwise dispose of any books, periodicals, films, and other library materials not needed for the permanent use of the Library.

"(c) The Surgeon General is authorized, after obtaining the advice and recommendations of the Board (established under section 373), to prescribe rules under which the Library will provide copies of its publications or materials, or will make available its facilities for research or its bibliographic, reference, or other services, to public and private agencies and organizations, institutions, and individuals. Such rules may provide for making available such publications, materials, facilities, or services (1) without charge as a public service, or (2) upon a loan, exchange, or charge basis, or (3) in appropriate circumstances, under contract arrangements made with a public or other nonprofit agency, organization, or institution.

"BOARD OF REGENTS

"SEC. 373. (a) There is hereby established in the Public Health Service a Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine (referred to in this part as the 'Board') consisting of the Surgeons General of the Public Health Service, the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, the Chief Medical Director of the Department of Medicine and Surgery of the Veterans' Administration, the Assistant Director for Biological and Medical Sciences of the National Science Foundation, and the Librarian of Congress, all of whom shall be ex officio members, and ten members appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The ten appointed members shall be selected from among leaders in the various fields of the fundamental sciences, medicine, dentistry, public health, pharmacology, or scientific or medical library work, or in public affairs. At least six of the appointed members shall be selected from among leaders in the fields of medical, dental, or public health research or education. The Board shall annually elect one of the appointed members to serve as Chairman until the next election. The Surgeon General shall designate a member of the Library staff to act as executive secretary of the Board.

"(b) It shall be the duty of the Board to advise, consult with, and make recommendations to the Surgeon General on important matters of policy in regard to the Library, including such matters as the acquisition of materials for the Library, the scope, content, and organization of the Library's services, and the rules under which its materials, publications, facilities, and services shall be made available to various kinds

of users, and the Surgeon General shall include in his annual report to the Congress a statement covering the recommendations made by the Board and the disposition thereof. The Surgeon General is authorized to use the services of any member or members of the Board in connection with matters related to the work of the Library, for such periods, in addition to conference periods, as he may determine.

"(c) Each appointed member of the Board shall hold office for a term of four years, except that (A) any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of such term, and (B) the terms of the members first taking office after the date of enactment of this part shall expire as follows: three at the end of four years after such date, three at the end of three years after such date, two at the end of two years after such date, and two at the end of one year after such date, as designated by the President at the time of appointment. None of the appointed members shall be eligible for reappointment within one year after the end of his preceding term.

"(d) Appointed members of the Board who are not otherwise in the employ of the United States, while attending conferences of the Board or otherwise serving at the request of the Surgeon General, shall be entitled to receive compensation at a rate to be fixed by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, but not exceeding $50 per diem, including travel time, and while away from their homes or regular places of business they may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 73b-2) for persons in the Government service employed intermittently.

"GIFTS TO LIBRARY

"SEC. 374. The provisions of section 501 shall be applicable to the acceptance and administration of gifts made for the benefit of the Library or for carrying out any of its functions, and the Surgeon General shall make recommendations to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare relating to establishment within the Library of suitable memorials to the donors.

"DEFINITIONS

"SEC. 375. For purposes of this part the terms 'medicine' and 'medical' shall, except when used in section 373, be understood to include preventive and therapeutic medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, hospitalization, nursing, public health, and the fundamental sciences related thereto, and other related fields of study, research, or activity.

"LIBRARY FACILITIES

"SEC. 376. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated sums sufficient for the erection and equipment of suitable and adequate buildings and facilities

for use of the Library in carrying out the provisions of this part. The Administrator of General Services is authorized to acquire, by purchase, condemnation, donation, or otherwise, a suitable site or sites, selected by the Surgeon General after consultation with the Board, in or near the District of Columbia for such buildings and facilities and to erect thereon, furnish, and equip such buildings and facilities. The sums herein authorized to be appropriated shall include the cost of preparation of drawings and specifications, supervision of construction and other administrative expenses incident to the work. The Administrator of General Services shall prepare the plans and specifications, make all necessary contracts, and supervise construction.

"TRANSFER OF ARMED FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY

"SEC. 377. All civilian personnel, equipment, library collections, other personal property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds (available or to be made available), which the Director of the Bureau of the Budget shall determine to relate primarily to the functions of the Armed Forces Medical Library, are hereby transferred to the Service for use in the administration and operation of this part. Such transfer of property, funds, and personnel, and the other provisions of this part, shall become effective on the first day, occurring not less than thirty days after the date of enactment of this part, which the Director of the Bureau of the Budget determines to be practicable."

SEC. 2. This Act may be cited as the "National Library of Medicine Act."

ALTERNATE BILLS

On 16 May 1956 eight identical bills were introduced in the House, numbered H.R. 11267 through 11274, by eight Congressmen from Cook County, Illinois. The text of these bills is identical with the text of S. 3430 as originally submitted and before amendment (see NEWS, March 1956), with the exception of the substitution of a clause in Sec. 3 (a) which specifies that the site of the new library building would be "in the city of Chicago, Illinois." Additional bills have been submitted since that date, and all have been referred to the Committee on House Administration.

SUMMER HOURS

During the period 1 June through 3 September 1956 (Labor Day), the Armed Forces Medical Library will be open each weekday, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Library will be closed Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

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